

# **Native American Federal Employees Council**

## **Meeting Minutes**

### **March 4, 2004**

**Board Members:** Ruby Pippenger, Chair, NOAA NWS NRC  
Crystal Wallace, Vice-Chair, USDA/NITC  
Robin K. Hatfield, Secretary, FDA  
Tonya Stonham, Alt-Secretary, DHS

**In Attendance:** Members (see end of report)

**Where:** USDA Facility, Beacon Street, Kansas City, MO

**Guest Speaker:** Mona Perry, Employment Specialist, American Indian Council  
Indian Employment and Training Program

**Opening and Minutes:** Ruby Pippenger called the meeting to order. Introductions were made all around. January 2004 minutes were tabled for approval until the April meeting..

**Guest Speaker:** Mona perry, Employment Specialist, American Indian Council (AIC), Indian Employment and Training. Ms. Perry requested support and suggestions from the council for a Symposium the AIC is hostin June 17, 8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. and will be exclusively for the native American living in the greater Kansas City area.

The AIC's concern is for the Indian who is not receiving appropriate guidance on health issues, education, high unemployment rate, lack of housing or adequate affordable housing facilities.

Suggestions for Mona: Invite state representatives and provide lunch. Looking at professionals versus individuals who have a vision of common destiny for Native American peoples. "Make Room for Us." Find an organization to donate box lunches to feed appx. 250-300 people expected to attend the symposium. nancy suggested Ms. Perry research with Medicare/Medicaid Services, Office of Minority for assistance and to obtain access to various grants available to minorities, also the Commission of Indian Affairs (State) and Mental health State Affairs.

Bill Whitcomb will be the liason between Ms. Perry and the council. Items to obtain from ms. Perry's office prior to our next meeting are as follows:

1. Breakdown list of what Ms. Perry expects from FEB/government agencies and the political arena to review.

2. Mailing list (citizens, government agencies, etc.)
3. Letter from Ms. Perry's office inviting guests to attend the symposium.
4. Determine the facility to hold the symposium including state offices.

Ms. Perry's office is located at 310 Armour Rd, Suite 205, North Kansas City, Missouri, 64116. Tel. (816) 471-4898. Toll free number (816) 546-4898. Fax: (816) 471-8543.

After proposal draft has been presented to the council and approved, the sub-committee will post symposium report for the FEBC. Sub-committee members for this symposium are Mona Perry, Bill Whitcomb, Joseph Gray and Nancy Rios.

Ruby stated that no monetary contributions may be given to Ms. Perry for the symposium, but volunteers from the committee may donate their time and offer assistance for the symposium.

Overview for the symposium: Letter sent to agency heads outlining what you want the person to do, copy of agenda, have a question/answer session during the symposium.

#### **NAFEC Business:**

#### **Announcements**

1. Ruby Pippenger presented Donna Stone with a beautiful print. She gave her appreciation on behalf of the committee for her dedication and hard work for the past year as Chair of the Council. Donna showed much affection for the committee and its continued dedication to the community and will continue her support as well.
2. To make directory changes, contact Robin K. Hatfield either by e-mail ([rhathfiel@ora.fda.gov](mailto:rhathfiel@ora.fda.gov)) or by telephone (913) 752-2732.
3. Recommendation: Sheila Egan to be our Outreach Retirees Representative. Seconded and approved by the committee. Sheila accepted.
4. Recommendation: Jana recommended for our joint meeting hosted by Disabilities and NA councils that we have a discussion or presentation on "What happens to the people of tribes in the area of rehabilitation? Do they fall through the cracks, does the state pick them up? Who is responsible?" A wonderful publication on diabetes called "Voice of the Diabetic." This week/month covers blindness issues and the diabetic.
5. Les reported there will be a national Conference in May on Child Care issues. The state/tribal childcare directors will be present.
6. Nancy reported there will be a regional HHS consultation meeting April 22-23, 2004 at Haskell University. The agenda will be Medicare Act 2003.

#### **FEB Business:**

#### **General**

Ruby completed the draft flyer for the NAFEC Diversity Subcommittee. All members are asked to review and make corrections and suggested changes to Crystal Wallace.

Ruby gave a presentation to the FEB in February and will provide the council with the completed version at the next meeting.

### **KCFEB Interest Items**

The Federal Women's Essay contest awards, ceremony, "Women - Inspiring Hope and Possibility" will be on March 11, at the Truman Library in Independence, MO.  
Report: Tonya Stonham attended and participated in the judging process.

CFC - Heartland CFC Coordinator for Federal Agencies

Day of Caring - June 26, 2004 Public relations/outreach, HAIC may be a possible recipient for Day of Caring again this year.

Recognition Day - 2004 Public Employees Recognition Day Awards - May 6, 2004.

COOP - 11<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 pm at Ward Parkway

GSA - sponsoring a Blood Drive March 25<sup>th</sup>.

**Diversity Day (aka Unity Day)** The next Diversity Day is scheduled for September 21, 2004. Nancy Rios proposed we host a mini-pow wow.

**Lunch and Learn** - NAFEC's Lunch and Learn is planned for November 2004.

**Society of American Indian Government Employees (SAIGE):** Donna Stone reported that SAIGE is moving forward. The reason you are not receiving a lot of e-mail traffic is that the board members are currently working on a National Conference. A tentative 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Conference is being planned for October 2004. The NCAI is holding its annual conference in Fort Lauderdale, FL the week of October 10-15, 2004 and SAIGE is hoping to piggyback during this conference and hold a two-day event October 8-9, 2004 for federal employees. SAIGE is looking to grandfather in entire Indian Organizations. SAIGE board members would like to hold monthly conference calls with Lori Wilde.

If you wish to join SAIGE please contact Jesse James or Les Tate at either [jesse.james@noaa.gov](mailto:jesse.james@noaa.gov) or [ltate@hiway.net](mailto:ltate@hiway.net). SAIGE's web url is <http://www.aipc.osmre.gov/SAIGE>

**Heart of America Indian Center (HAIC):** The center is in need of office furniture. If your agency has any excess office furniture and would like to donate it, please contact Carolyn King. If you are interested in volunteering at the HAIC or would like to donate, please contact the HAIC (816) 421-7608 or e-mail Carolyn at [ckinghaic@aol.com](mailto:ckinghaic@aol.com)

### **Miscellaneous:**

**Indian Health Issues:** To keep informed as to the health issues concerning Native American peoples, visit <http://www.nihb.org>. A National Conference will be held on August 8-11, 2004 in Oklahoma City.

**Committees:** If you are willing to participate on one of the committees, please contact Ruby Pippenger, Robin K. Hatfield, or Crystal Wallace.

**General:**

The four workgroup committees have been formed to address the goal and mission of the Native American Diversity Council. Each committee is to meet monthly outside of the business meeting. Committee Chairs are requested to provide a brief synopsis of the status of ongoing committee activities at each NAFEC meeting. The synopsis will be included in the minutes of the meeting. Please meet before the next NAFEC meeting to begin implementing your goals.

**1. Native American Programs Resource Book** - A resource book is in place and is available for all federal agencies to use when organizing their programs. This book is a compilation of American Indian speakers, artists, performers, historians, film artists, curators and others. The book includes names, points of contact, fees and pictures.

Members: Kathy Mathias (Chair), Donna Stone, Tonya Stonham, Larry Thompson, Cindy Dennis-Schappe, Ruby Pippenger, Crystal Wallace and Sheila Egan.

**Report:** It was suggested that the book be brought to every council meeting to ensure incorporation of materials as obtained and be kept available for council members to check out and use at their own agencies.

**2. American Indian Education Planning Committee** – Committee is working with various agencies and parents to investigate student educational program opportunities, to address high dropout rates and to coordinate strategies and plans in order to best encourage Native American students to perform well within the Kansas City School District.

Members: Tom Beaver (Chair), Brenda Ladage, Dohn Farley, Joseph Gray, Tonya Stonham, and Donna Stone

**Report:** Report by Joseph Gray. At the previous IPC meeting, Tom Beaver presented the Bush proposal of 2005. A meeting is planned for parents, students and the school board of superintendents and board of directors in the Greater Kansas City Area. Professor Cornel Pewewardy will give the presentation. Faculty and Haskell students as well as community members are encouraged and welcome to attend this meeting. The meeting will be held on April 7, 2004 at 6:30 pm at the Blue Valley Salvation Army Corps Community City on Truman Road in Kansas City, MO. Chili and fry bread will be provided for dinner and the Red Hawk drum will be drumming. Easter baskets will be given to every child attending. For further information, contact Carolyn King at the aforementioned telephone number or e-mail address.

**3. Membership Committee** – The committee will develop a brochure and/or information pamphlets. Council's purpose, reasons to participate, how to generate effective recruiting

letters, canvas members for participation, recruiting new members, eliciting management support, and promote management education and understanding of our council's work.

Members: Crystal Wallace (Chair), Kathy Mathias, Tonya Stonham, and Linda Day

**Report:** The committee is currently working on proposed letters.

**4. Special Events and Public Relations Committee** – Coordinate outreach activities and interface with members, other FEB regional councils, and community organizations.

Members: Tonya Stonham (Chair), Kathy Mathias, Larry Thompson, Linda Day, and Crystal Wallace.

**Report:** Tonya Stonham reports. A guide listing ideas and proposals for the year was given out to the sub-committee members. The guide will be available for all council members at the April meeting.

**Upcoming Events:**

Haskell Indian Nations University Commencement/ Pow Wow - May 14-16, 2004

Commencement - Friday, May 14 at 10:00 am.

Pow Wow will be held at the Haskell Pow Wow Grounds

-Friday, May 14, Grand Entry 7:0 pm

-Saturday, May 15, Grand Entry 1:00 pm and 7:00 pm

-Sunday, May 16, Grand Entry 1:00 pm

EPA is sponsoring a workshop "Working Effectively with Tribal Governments." POC: Elizabeth Wendt, USEPA Region 7. March 30-31, 2004.

Health Care Professions - Scholarship information contact Nancy Rios. AAIP is sponsoring June 19-27, 2004 for 17-19 year old students.

Nelson Art Gallery - The exhibit "George Catlin and His Indian Gallery" is touring the United States. The exhibition showcases artworks from one of the most important collections at the Smithsonian American Art Museum. Determined to record the "manners and customs" of Native Americans. This exhibition includes Native American artifacts collected by the artist that have not been shown with the paintings in more than a century.

**Next Scheduled Meeting:**

The next meeting will be held on April 1, 2004 at 1:00pm at the USDA Beacon Facility.

**Upcoming Joint Meetings:**

May 19 - Host Asian Pacific, time and location to be announced. (TBA)

Aug 12 - Host FWP/Hispanic, time and location TBA

Nov 5 - Host Disabilities/ NAFEC, time and location TBA

**Member Attendees:**

Day, Linda C	USPS
Egan, Sheila (retiring)	FDA
Farley, Dohn	DFAS
Gray, Joseph	NPS
Littlejohn, John	HUD
Marquez, Pascual G.	USDOJ
Mathias, Kathrin	VA
Moynihan, Jana	HHS/OCR
Pippenger, Ruby	NOAA
Rios, Nancy	CMS
Stone, Donna	USDA-FSA
Stonham, Tonya	DHS
Thierolf, Les	DHHS
Thompson, Larry	USDA-RMA
Wallace, Crystal	NITC-USDA
Whitcomb, Bill	DOJ

Guest:

Perry, Mona Lee